

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EEC, NL, TU, CY

SUBJ: US/EC PRESIDENCY DIALOGUE: FOREIGN MINISTERS TALKS
IN ANKARA ON CYPRUS AND AEGEAN

REF: STATE 221450

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: POLITICAL DIRECTOR RUTTEN PROVIDED DCM WITH RUNDOWN ON FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER STOEL'S TRIP TO ANKARA EARLIER THIS WEEK. SEPARATE CABLE COVERS DISCUSSIONS ON ECE-TURKISH RELATIONSHIPS. ACCORDING TO RUTTEN, VAN DER STOEL RETURNED DEPRESSED AND DEEPLY DISAPPOINTED WITH TURKISH POSITIONS ON BOTH CYPRUS AND AEGEAN. HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH CAGLAYANGIL AND DEMIREL LED HIM TO CONCLUDE THAT ON NEITHER PROBLEM WERE TURKS NOW PREPARED TO MAKE MEANINGFUL MOVES. HIS GENERAL IMPRESSION WAS THAT TURKISH GOVERNMENT COULD NOT REACH AGREEMENT TO TAKE ANY STEP ON EITHER ISSUE LARGELY BECAUSE OF INTERNAL DIVISIONS AND THE FEAR THAT ANY CONCESSIONS WOULD BE EXPLOITED BY ECEVIT FOR ELECTION PURPOSES. END SUMMARY.

2. ON CYPRUS FOREIGN MINISTER FOUND NO INDICATION OF
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ANY PROSPECT FOR PROGRESS. APPARENTLY TURKS DID LITTLE

MORE THAN REITERAGE PREVIOUS TURKISH POSITIONS, INCLUDING OPPOSITION T EARLY RESUMPTION OF INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS UNDER AUSPICES OF UNSYG. THEY ALSO TOLD VAN DER STOEL THAT IT WAS ILLUSORY TO THINK OF MORE THAN THE MOST MINOR TERRITORIAL CHANGES ON THE ISLAND. RUTTEN SAID THAT ONLY POSITIVE ELEMENT EMERGING FROM TALKS WAS THAT GOT HAD ASSURED VAN DER STOEL IT WOULD NOT ALLOW DENKTASH TO DECLARE UDI, EXPLAINING THAT TURKEY COULD NOT STOP HIM TALKING BUT COULD KEEPHIM FROM ACTING.

3. RUTTEN REFERRRED TO BELGIAN INTEREST ORIGINATING WITH DAVIGNON FOR NATO DISCUSSION OF GREEK-TURKISH PROBLEMS. HE SAID DUTCH STRONGLY OPPOSED BRINGING GREEK-TURKISH DIFFERENCES INTO NAOT, BOTH BECAUSE THEY BELIEVED IT WOULD SERVE NO CONSTRUCTIVE PURPOSE AND MORE IMPORTANT BECAUSE IT WOULD WORSEN RELATIONS OF BOTH GREECE AND TURKEY WITH NATO, ESPECIALLY GREECE. IN ADDITON, DUTCH FEARED MAIN IMPRESSIO THAT WOULD OBTAIN AFTER ANY NATO DISCUSSION WOULD BE ONE OF ORGANIZATIONS IMPOTENCE IN THIS SITUATION.

4. TURNING TO AEGEAN PROBLEM, RUTTEN SAID TWO POINTS CLEARLY EMERGED FROM ANKARA CONVERSATIONS. FIRST, THERE WAS NOT PROSPECT OF TALKS WITH GREEKS BEGINNING BEFORE SISMIK ENDED ITS PRESENT VOYAGE, AND SECOND, EVEN THEREAFTER TURKS HAD EMPHASIZED THAT THEY WOULD NOT ENTER INTO TALKS UNTIL GREEKS WITDREW ICJ CASE. TURKS APPARENTLY PLACED GREAT EMPHASIS ON FINAL PARA OF SC RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR BOTH PARTIES TO SUBMIT REMAINING LEGAL DIFFERENCES TO THEICJ BUT AGAIN HAD INTERPRETED THIS TO MEAN THAT EVERYTHING ELSE SHOULD FIRST BE NEGOTIATED OUT.

5. VAN DER STOEL ASKED TURKS WHETHER THERE WAS ANY POSSIBILITY OF SOME JOINT ENTERPRISE OR EXPLORATION IN AEGEAN. THIS QUERY DID NOT DRAW A POSITIVE RESPONSE BUT NEITHER WAS IT FLATLY REJECTED. HE ALSO GINERLY BROACHED POSSIBILITY OF SOME FORM OF MEDIATION. TURKISH RESPONSE WAS NEGATIVE, ACCOMPANIED BY COMMENTS THAT ANY SUCH INITIATIVE UNLIKELY TO SUCCEED AND COULD DAMAGE

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NOW EXISTING GOOD RELATIONS WITH PROSPECTIVE MEDIATOR OR MEDIATORS.

6. FOREIGN MINISTER FOUND THAT EMOTIONS ON TURKISH SIDE ABOUT GREECE HAD BECOME EVEN STRONGER. DEMIREL HAD BEEN VEHEMENT IN HIS REMARKS ABOUT MILITARIZATION OF DODECANESE. VAN DER STOEL RESPONDED THAT WHATEVER THE LEGALITIES, IT PRESENTED NO THREAT TO TURKEY SINCE IT

HAD NOT CHANGED BALANCE OF POWER. TURKS ALSO REFERRED BITTERLY TO GREK LOBBY IN WASHINGTON AND SAID IF ATHENS COULD ONLY CONVINCE LOBBY TO DESIST THAT PERHAPS WOULD HELP, BUT VAN DER STOEL REGARDED THIS COMMENT AS MORE A TURKISH PRETEXT TO AVOID TAKING SUBSTANTIVE POSITIONS ON ISSUES.

7. DESPITE DISCOURAGING ASPECTS OF HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH TURKS, FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER STOEL WAS STILL DISPOSED TO EXPLORE FURTHER POSSIBILITY OF SOME ACCOMMODATION ON AEGEAN PROBLEM. IN DUTCH VIEW, IDEA OF JOINT EXPLORATION, ASSISTED WITH OUTSIDE TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC ADVICE, MIGHT HAVE SOME VIRTUE SINCE IT COULD CLARIFY QUESTIONS OF WHAT RESOURCES WERE AT STAKE, AFTER WHICH PERHAPS SENSIBLE DECISIONS ON FUTURE EXPLOITATION COULD BE MADE. RUTTEN ASSUMED VAN DER STOEL WOULD REVIEW THIS WITH HIS COLLEAGUES AT EC FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING THIS COMING WEEKEND. GOULD

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